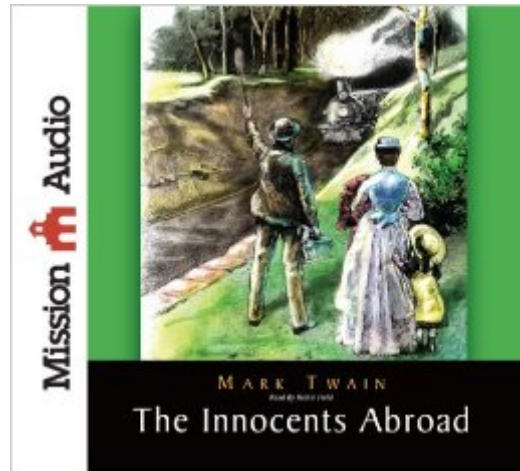


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The Innocents Abroad



Synopsis

What do you get when you combine classic travel literature with the inimitable wit of Mark Twain? *The Innocents Abroad*, is a keenly observant, politically incorrect and often hilarious narration of the author's cruise to the Holy Land aboard a retired Civil War ship. First published in 1869 and the bestselling of Twain's works in his lifetime, *The Innocents Abroad* will delight listeners with the celebrated author's musings on historic landmarks, cultural differences and silly travelling companions.

Book Information

Audio CD: 20 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (443 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Mark Twain is the Lincoln of our literature. Sam Clemens (1835-1910) wrote *Huckleberry Finn* in 1885 which has been acclaimed as our greatest American novel. Lesser known are his wonderful travelogues: "Roughing It" "Following the Equator"; "Life on the Mississippi" and "The Innocents Abroad" published in 1869. This book is worth reading even 140 years after its publication. Twain's style is a joy to read for he was a born storyteller and communicates his thoughts well on the page. Twain was a reporter who joined the six month expedition to Europe and the Middle East on board the steamer "Quaker City." The pleasure tour had been organized by the famous pastor Henry Ward Beecher (sibling of Harriet Ward Beecher) and Civil War General William Tecumseh Sherman. Neither of these notable made the trip citing other obligations. Twain roomed with a young man from Elmira New York. He would later visit Elmira and meet his friend's sister Olivia. She would become his wife and the mother of the couple's three daughters. *The Innocents Abroad* is a long book of 400,000 words covering over 500 densely written pages. Twain takes a sardonic, humorous view of

European art as he guides us through the Louvre, Florence Italy and Rome. We visit London, Paris and meet with Czar Alexander II in the Crimea. Twain had a keen reporter's eye and a humorist's ability to paint word pictures of his fellow passengers, tour guides and natives of the fascinating cities and countries he visited on a busy itinerary. As a Presbyterian pastor I found the most interesting part of the book dealt with Twain's tour of Syria, Lebanon, Turkey, Greece and Israel. He was upset by the filth, disease and cruelty he saw in the land of Moses and Jesus Christ.

"Mark Twain Innocents Abroad; Illustrated & Enhanced Collectors' Edition" from ReAnimus Press (call it the IEC edition) is the most disappointing book that I have ever obtained from . The terms "Illustrated", "Enhanced" and "Collectors'" promise a wonderful example of bookmaking. The Book Description says that it has been "enhanced to include.....all the original 234 beautiful, humorous, and indispensable illustrations--not found in other editions....." Reality is otherwise. All 234 illustrations are there. But the original editions of Twain's works had excellent, clever engravings with clear, crisp black lines on white background, and this quality is preserved in many facsimile editions today. In this IEC edition the illustrations are all apparently photocopied in faint grey line on a lighter grey background, and look like like landscapes seen through a fog. This, and the fact that the illustrations have been reduced to something like 50% of their original size, totally destroys the charm and impact that the pictures were meant to convey. In an act of desperation, I printed out half a dozen illustrations from the internet site of the Twain Library of Virginia, and pasted them into the book opposite their printed facsimiles. The contrast is appalling! This IEC edition is not a facsimile of the original issue. The book has been re-typeset in a miniscule type font, as small as that used in the little 4 1/2" x 7" Signet Classic paperback of "Innocents Abroad"! There are occasional disturbing eccentricities, such as in Chapter 26, where an in-text playbill for the Roman Colosseum is suddenly expanded into four pages of empty space and gigantic type, larger than on the Title Page or anywhere else in the book.

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